

## **DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT- October 2013**

The following information is submitted in accordance with requirements to provide current data on Cuban law on the disposition of remains.

### **I. Maximum Period Before Burial**

Cuban national policy set by the Ministry of Public Health requires burial within 24-30 hours after death if body is not embalmed. In practice, however, the remains of foreigners not claimed within 30 hours are often embalmed on the orders of the local Public Health officer and maintained in cold storage until next of kin (NOK) can be located and instructions obtained. If remains are embalmed, the local Public Health representative will determine the time limit within which the body should be buried.

### **II. Embalming**

Embalming facilities exist and bodies must be either embalmed or buried within 30 hours after death. In cases involving foreigners, the preparation of the remains is almost invariably done by the Funeraria de Calzada y K in Havana.

### **III. Cremation**

Local laws permit cremation and facilities exist in Havana.

### **IV. Caskets and Containers**

Caskets and containers for local burial or for the export of remains are available locally. For local burial, a cloth-lined wood casket is used. Remains to be exported are placed in a metal casket. A wooden shipping case is provided for transport. Varnished wooden boxes are provided for the shipment of ashes.

- Wooden casket for local burial– (392.50 USD)
- Wooden shipping case for export - (115.00 USD)
- Metal casket for export - (885.00 USD)
- Varnished wooden box for the shipment of ashes(58.92 USD)

### **V. Exportation of Remains**

Unless the person was covered by travel insurance in which case the Government of Cuba will pay for all the services, USINT strongly recommends that NOK wire a minimum of \$5, 000 USD to the

Department of State to cover all costs in exporting remains to the United States. The Department of State and USINT will assist the family in wiring money and will return all unused funds upon completion of the case. Please note the following:

- Remains must be embalmed (except in cases of cremation).
- Remains must be enclosed in a hermetically sealed metal container.
- The following documents must accompany the remains in shipment:

For cadavers:

- Transportation authorization from the Ministry of Public Health.
- Medical Report of Death, and Embalming Report.
- Appropriate authentication of local documents for use in the U.S.

For ashes:

- Transportation authorization from the Ministry of Public Health.
- Medical Report of Death, and Embalming Report.
- Appropriate authentication of local documents for use in the U.S.
- Cremation certificate.

## **VI. Costs**

Following is an estimate for the cost of services that are usually involved in cases of shipping of remains.

- Legal Medicine Institute      \$1,500.00 USD (Approx)
- Funeral Home      \$1,400.00 USD (Approx)
- Airlines      \$1,300.00 USD (Approx)
  
- Local interment without embalming must be arranged on a case-by-case basis and the exact price obtained through Funeraria Calzada y K, Vedado, Phone 537 835 3584. The cost is approximately \$225.00 USD

Autopsy (depends on weight of cadaver):

- Autopsy more than 70 Kgs      950.00 USD
- Autopsy between 15 and 70 Kgs      700.00 USD
- Autopsy less than 15 Kgs.      450.00 USD
- Autopsy more than 70 Kgs (HIV-positive cases)      1350.00 USD

- Autopsy between 15 and 70 Kgs ((HIV-positive cases) 1100.00 USD
- Autopsy less than 15 Kgs ((HIV-positive cases) 850.00 USD

#### Embalming

- Embalming more than 70 Kgs 900.00 USD
- Embalming between 15 and 70 Kgs 700.00 USD
- Embalming less than 15 Kgs. 500.00 USD

Cremation and preparation of ashes for shipping (including cremation, sealing, documentation, and varnished wood box)

- Cremation of a cadaver ..... 1130.00 USD
- Cremation of remains ..... 700.00 USD

#### Airfreight

- Some licensed charter airlines like IBC Charter transport remains from Cuba to the U.S.
- If a licensed charter is not available, remains may be transported through a third country such as El Salvador, Costa Rica or Canada.
- The cost for airfreight is calculated per Kg. Flights schedules are subject to change. It is advisable to check with USINT.

### **VII. Exhumation and Shipment**

Coordination of the exhumation is made through Funeraria Calzada y K, Vedado, Havana.

- Exhumation of a decayed corpse..... 200.00 USD
- Corpse Exhumation ..... 35.00 USD
- Documentation..... 30.00 USD
- Hermetic sealing, zinc-lined container for shipment (if needed due to length of time since first interred)..... 300.00 USD
- For air freight... (See note above)

### **VIII. Remarks**

If the cemetery to be used is not in Havana, a fee of 1.50 USD for each Km. traveled from the Havana funeral home will apply in transporting remains.

If the death occurs outside of Havana, a fee of 1.50 USD for each Km. traveled from the location of death to the Havana funeral home will apply in transporting remains.